DC COMICS™
THE NEW 52! #0
NIGHTWING™
TOM DeFALCO
KYLE HIGGINS
EDDY BARROWS
EBER FERREIRA
EDDY BARROWS + ROD REIS
RATED T TEEN
NOV 2012
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GOTHAM CITY.
A FEW YEARS AGO...
The night before my life changed was like any other.
GOOD THING YOU'RE NOT THIS SLOW IN THE RING, RAYMOND--THEY'D HAVE TO CUT THE OTHER ACTS!
KEEP TALKING, TRAPEZE BOY, AND IT'S GONNA BE YOU WHO--
SORRY, CAN'T HEAR YOU FROM ALL THE WAY UP HERE!
And by "any other," what I mean is...

...totally average.
After all, parkour train racing had become a favorite game of ours.
The trick was to keep moving.
Always looking forward. Never back.
Reading your surroundings, each other...
HA!
Guard's Weight Forward. Unbalanced.
...and other people.
STOP!
RAYMOND! WAIT!
OH, YEAH.
DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS:
BEFORE THE NEW 52!
NIGHTWING in
PERPETUAL MOTION
TOM DEFALCO WITH KYLE HIGGINS PLOT
KYLE HIGGINS DIALOGUE
EDDY BARROWS PENCILS
EBER FERREIRA INKS
ROD REIS COLORS
CARLOS M. MANGUAL LETTERS
BARROWS & REIS COVER
KATIE KUBERT ASSISTANT EDITOR
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM EDITOR
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFMAN AND GEORGE PÉREZ

Of course, there was a reason I usually won.
WOOT WOOOT
NO!
OOF--
WOOOOOOOOOOOOOT
UGH!
WHOA...
YUH-YOU...
...YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE, KID.
Raymond wasn't great at the "reading" part.

LATER.
IT SHOULD GO WITHOUT SAYING THAT YOU'RE GROUNDED--
--BUT LET ME SAY IT ANYWAY. YOU'RE GROUNDED. INDEFINITELY.
AND CONGRATULATIONS, DICK, IT'S NOT EVERY MOTHER WHO CELEBRATES HER BIRTHDAY IN A POLICE STATION. SO, THANK YOU FOR THAT.
YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY?
THE GUARD ISN'T PRESSING CHARGES AND I'VE APOLOGIZED LIKE, A HUNDRED TIMES.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU GUYS ARE MAKING SUCH A BIG--
BECAUSE YOU DON'T GET TO RUN AROUND DOING WHATEVER YOU WANT AND IGNORING THE THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH, DICK.
LIFE DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT/ PEOPLE HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS.
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS BE MOVING FORWARD, NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO BE.
NOW GIVE YOUR MOTHER HER REAL PRESENT AND MEET ME UP ON THE RIG.
MY WHAT?
WE HAVE A RUN-THROUGH IN TEN MINUTES.
OH. RIGHT. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ROBINS, MOM...
...SO I MADE SURE IT HAD TWO OF THEM.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
OH, DICK...IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
ROBINS FROM MY ROBIN... THANK YOU.
BUT YOU'RE STILL GROUNDED.
To this day, that moment stands out in my mind. Crystal clear. Pristine.
Even though what happened after...

...is only fragments.
Snapshots.
WHAT I'M SAYIN' IS, IF YOU WANT TO AVOID ACCIDENTS, HALY...
...YOU'LL TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.
OKAY, OKAY, TONY...
Disjointed.
But connected.
All frozen in time.
But the moment everything really changed...

...didn't happen until later.
IT WAS HERS, WASN'T IT?
THE BRACELET. IT WAS YOUR MOTHER'S?
TODAY WAS HER BIRTHDAY.
Tension Headache.
Teeth Grinding.
Eyes Twitching.
Bruce Wayne--a man who had all the money and success he would ever need.
So why didn't he look the part?
I'M SO SORRY, DICK...
C.C. HALY BACKS UP WHAT THE BOY SAW, MR. WAYNE.
A LOW-LEVEL SHAKEDOWN ARTIST NAMED TONY ZUCCO HIT THE CIRCUS FOR PROTECTION MONEY EARLIER. HALY REFUSED TO PAY.
FRAYING THE TRAPEZE LINES MAY HAVE BEEN HIS COUNTER OFFER.
WHAT ABOUT THE BOY, LIEUTENANT GORDON?
WELL, HE'S A MATERIAL WITNESS, MR. WAYNE. UNTIL WE CATCH ZUCCO...
...WE'LL NEED TO STASH HIM SOMEPLACE SAFE.
I MAY BE ABLE TO HELP THERE...

WAYNE CARE CENTER.
DAYS LATER.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER, MR. WAYNE...
...IS THAT DICK ALREADY *BLAMES HIMSELF* FOR WHAT HAPPENED. FOR NOT SPEAKING UP ABOUT WHAT HE *SAW.*
THE LAST THING WE WANT TO DO IS *PUSH* HIM TO START DEALING WITH THIS BEFORE HE'S *READY.*
HAVING SAID THAT... HE'S DOING WELL.
"GRANTED, HE SPENDS MUCH OF HIS TIME PLAYING COMPUTER GAMES...
GOTHAM HERALD
SUSPECT IN CIRCUS KILLINGS STILL AT LARGE
"...OR READING...
"...BUT CONSIDERING EVERYTHING HE'S BEEN THROUGH...
"...I'D SAY HE'S ALREADY STARTED *ADJUSTING.*"

The first few nights, I wasn't sure what was going to happen.
I just knew I had to be the one to find Zucco.
It was my responsibility.
On the fourth night...
...I found something else.
Maybe it was just the adrenaline.
I'm not sure.

But I like to think I jumped off that roof because of more than that.
Because I knew I should.
KRAK
ARGH!
Because I knew I could help him.
YOU...
Even if what happened next was a bigger surprise.
For both of us.
Eyes Twitching.
Tension Headache.
Teeth Grinding.
"DO YOU BELIEVE HE KNOWS?"

WAYNE CARE CENTER.
I'M NOT SURE, ALFRED, BUT THE WAY HE LOOKED AT ME...HMM.
THE BOY'S TALENTED. HE HAS A GIFT FOR READING MOTION. BODY LANGUAGE. I SEE IT IN HIS MOVEMENT.
YOU'RE NOT THINKING...
NO. OF COURSE NOT.
BUT WE NEED TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. WE NEED TO BE THERE FOR HIM.
THE WAY YOU WERE THERE FOR ME.
ENTER SEARCH: B-R-U-C-E W-A-Y-N-E

WHOA.
For weeks, each night was the same.

Looking for Zucco took me to places I never should have gone.
With people I never should have been with.
But each night...
...he was there.
We didn't talk about what I was doing.
He never told me to stop.
Of course, even if he had, I wouldn't. I couldn't.
And I think he knew that.

But, like everything else, something did change.
WHA... WHERE...
...ARE WE...?
I KNOW HOW BADLY YOU WANT TONY ZUCCO, DICK. AND I KNOW YOU'RE WILLING TO STOP AT NOTHING TO FIND HIM.
I ONLY HAVE ONE QUESTION.
WHEN YOU DO FIND ZUCCO...THEN WHAT?
YOU MEAN, WILL I KILL HIM...
...MR. WAYNE?
SORRY... YOU HIDE IT WELL, BUT...I'VE KNOWN SINCE THE MOMENT I FIRST SAW YOU AS BATMAN. SINCE THE MOMENT I REALIZED WE'RE THE SAME.
WHICH IS WHY YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.
WE WANT THE SAME THINGS, MR. WAYNE.
AND IF YOU'LL LET ME, I WANT TO HELP YOU FIGHT FOR THEM.
"I MUST ADAMANTLY EXPRESS MY DISAPPROVAL OF THIS, SIR."

TO BRING A BOY INTO THIS LIFE--
--HE'S ALREADY IN IT, ALFRED. AND NOTHING WE SAY IS GOING TO DISSUADE HIM.
THE BEST WE CAN DO IS KEEP HIM OFF THE STREETS. BEHIND A COMPUTER. UNTIL HE'S OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE HIS OWN DECISION.
I knew Alfred didn't agree with what Bruce was doing.
But I didn't care. Not then.
We made an arrangement with the orphanage, giving me a "part-time job" at the Manor.
I studied and trained, every day.
My obsession with Zucco fueled my every move.
But as the months went on...something shifted.
Once again, something changed.
As I honed my craft and devoted myself to pursuing justice...
...to stop what happened to me from happening to anyone else, I realized...

...this wasn't about them anymore.
THE TIP WAS SOLID. GOOD WORK. WRAP UP THE CASE FILES AND I'LL SEE YOU WHEN I GET BACK.
BATMAN OUT.
WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, MASTER RICHARD?
AM I A BAD SON, ALFRED?
MASTER RICHARD, WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU EVER--
BRUCE STILL VISITS THEM, YOU KNOW. HIS PARENTS.
"ONCE A WEEK.
"AND THE CLOCK THAT LEADS TO THE CAVE IS STILL SET TO THE TIME THEY DIED.
"ALL THESE YEARS LATER...THEIR DEATHS ARE STILL WHAT DRIVES HIM."
MY DAD USED TO SAY I LOOKED TOO FAR FORWARD. THAT I BRUSHED OFF THE THINGS I DIDN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH.
IS THAT WHY IT DOESN'T HURT THE SAME WAY ANYMORE, ALFRED? IS THAT WHY, WHEN I THINK ABOUT THEM, I ONLY THINK ABOUT THEIR LIVES?
AM I BRUSHING OFF WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?
WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS HEALING. YOU'RE ACCEPTING THAT THINGS CHANGE.
BUT MOVING ON WITH ONE'S LIFE AND FORGETTING ARE TWO SEPARATE THINGS.
AND, DARE I SAY, IT'S BETTER TO CELEBRATE THE WAY SOMEONE LIVED...
...THAN TO BE DRIVEN BY THE WAY THEY DIED.
It would be months before I'd realize how right Alfred was.

MONTHS LATER.
Before everything would change again.
I'VE GOT A HIT ON COUNCILMAN WIRTH'S CREDIT CARD THREE MINUTES AGO A BLOCK NORTH OF YOU, BATMAN. I'M SENDING THE DATA NOW.
THAT'S GOTTA BE A GOOD SIGN, RIGHT?
THREE MINUTES IS AN ETERNITY FOR AN ASSASSIN LIKE LADY SHIVA. WIRTH COULD VERY WELL BE DEAD BY NOW.
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THROUGH EVERY INTERNATIONAL DATABASE AND THERE'S NOT SO MUCH AS A PICTURE OF THIS SHIVA CHICK. ALL I'VE GOT IS WHISPERS.
WORKS UP CLOSE, DOESN'T LEAVE WITNESSES OR...
WAIT--
--I HAVE WIRTH!
IS HE ALIVE?
WE'RE TOO LATE--
--SHE'S ALREADY BEEN--
THRK
ARGH!
BATMAN!
THRK THRK
HIS BIOMETRICS ARE CRASHING-- SHE'S POISONING HIM!
TAKE OVER THE COMMS, ALFRED! I'M GOING!
BUT SIR, YOU CAN'T--
I'M READY, ALFIE, JUST LIKE YOU SAID--

--THINGS ALWAYS CHANGE.
HM.
I wasn't ready.
I'd been working on the armor for weeks, piecing it together from spare Bat suits.
BATMAN!
I'd only worn it twice before, and never outside the cave.
SCHWT
SCHWT
A PROTÉGÉ. HOW... INTRIGUING.
I wasn't even sure the design was final.
COME THEN. IMPRESS ME, BAT-BOY.
SORRY, NOT MUCH OF A "BAT" GUY...
But one thing was. One thing was permanent. I was sure of it.

...I'M MORE OF A ROBIN
GRACEFUL. FLUID--
-UGH-
FULL OF POTENTIAL.
YOU HAVE CHOSEN WELL, BATMAN.
OOF!
-HRK-
I SEE MUCH MORE FOR YOU--
BUT YOU, LITTLE B RD...HAVE NOT.
--BEYOND HIS SHADOW.
-EHN-
WHEN YOU DECIDE YOU WANT MORE, LITTLE ROBIN, FIND ME. LADY SHIVA WI... SHOW YOU HOW MUCH MORE YOU CAN BE.
Over the years, I've lost count of the number of times Alfred has commented on how similar but different Bruce and I are.

How two people who want the same thing can rarely see eye to eye on how to get it.
SHOULDN'T... BE WEARING... THAT...
I KNOW, I KNOW--THE TENSILE STRENGTH ISN'T HIGH ENOUGH YET. BUT I'M THINKING A THIRD WEAVE OF TITANIUM-DIPPED FIBERS SHOULD DOUBLE THE--
GET IN THE CAR.
I JUST...I JUST WANTED TO HELP--
NOW.
I never told Alfred that, in that moment, we were on the same page.
And it didn't take any "forward looking" to recognize it.
Robin would be anything but permanent.
And that was fine. After all...
...things always change.
NEXT: LADY SHIVA CONFRONTS NIGHTWING!

WHO'S WHO IN THE NEW 52!

JUSTICE FLIES AT NIGHT!

NIGHTWING

First Appearance:
Nightwing #1 (2011)

Base of Operations:
Gotham City

Powers:
Nightwing has no super powers, but he is a world-class acrobat, martial artist and detective.

Other Appearances:
Batman #1, Batgirl #3, Red Hood and the Outlaws #6, Batman and Robin #10, Batwing #4

History:

Raised under the traveling tent of Haly's Circus, Dick Grayson was part of his family's act, The Flying Graysons. At the age of 15, Dick's parents were murdered during a performance, and billionaire Bruce Wayne — who happened to be in the audience at the time — gave Dick a home at the Wayne Care Center. Soon Dick discovered Bruce and Batman were one and the same. After some training, he became Batman's partner, Robin. When Batgirl hit the scene, she and Robin became very close friends and flirted with the possibility of romance, but it never materialized, much to Batgirl's chagrin. As Dick grew older and more experienced, his partnership with Batman came to an end. Now on his own, Dick took the identity of Nightwing, remaining in Gotham and helping Batman when needed. Recently, Nightwing has had to face the ghosts of his past as he's taken ownership of Haly's Circus, hoping to revitalize Gotham's abandoned Amusement Mile section, land he has just purchased with his life's savings. More troubling is his discovery that The Court of Owls had intended for him to become one of their ruthless undead assassins, known as a Talon. Even with these new revelations in his life, Nightwing continues to face each challenge with his usual undaunted optimism.

FROM THE WRITER OF
ALL-STAR SUPERMAN & JLA

GRANT MORRISON

with ANDY KUBERT

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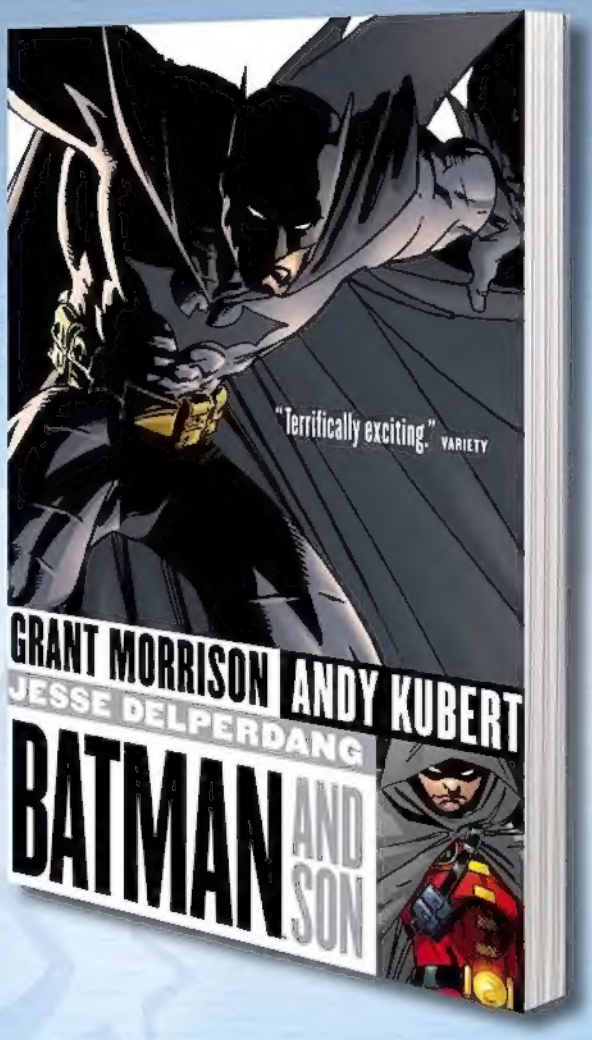
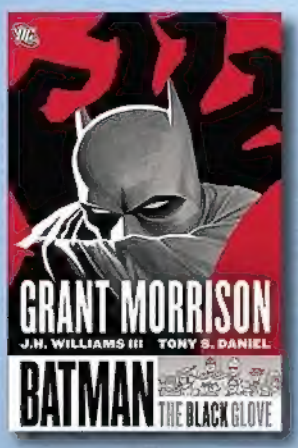


BATMAN:
THE BLACK GLOVE



with
J.H. WILLIAMS III & TONY DANIEL

BATMAN:
R.I.P.

with
TONY DANIEL

BATMAN AND ROBIN
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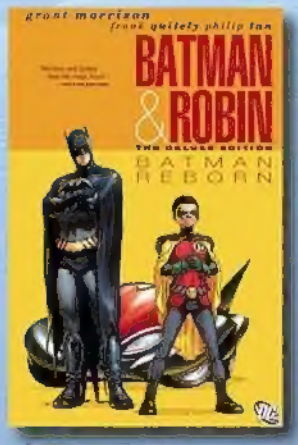

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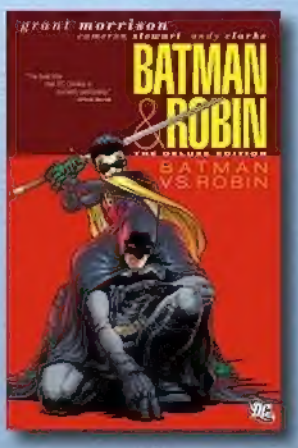
FRANK QUITELY & PHILIP TAN

BATMAN AND ROBIN
VOL. 2: BATMAN VS. ROBIN



with
CAMERON STEWART, ANDY CLARKE & DUSTIN NGUYEN

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